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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reply: Corticosteroids compromise survival in glioblastoma in part through their elevation of blood glucose levels

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Sir,

We appreciate the interest of Drs Clement and Champ in our article, which provided overall compelling evidence for a negative impact of corticosteroid medication on survival in patients with glioblastoma. Our colleagues raise the interesting hypothesis that part of this adverse effect of corticosteroids is through its elevation of blood glucose levels. They reason that elevated glucose in turn may induce resistance to radiotherapy and may overall facilitate survival of glioblastoma cells under untoward microenvironmental conditions. While we do not necessarily concur with the view that hyperglycaemia is the most prominent side-effect of steroids in the context of glioblastoma, the hypothesis is nevertheless interesting and could be tested with appropriate experimental models. The evidence in the literature summarized by our colleagues further lends support to our recommendation that steroid use in glioblastoma patients should be limited to the dose and duration considered absolutely necessary.

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